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Edgefield Free Press.

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STORM CENTER IS MOVED

British Lion Getting Close After the Russian Bear, and High Feeling Prevails

FRANCE AS A CONSERVATIVE FORCE

While Admiral Rojestvensky's Report is Denied in England, International Courtesy Requires an Investigation—Vessels of Other Neutral Powers are Found to Have Been Fired on—Orders Sent to Gibraltar to Bar the Russian Squadron's Progress—Attitude of France Alone Prevents War.

Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's explanation of the attack of his squadron on British trawlers, while it is received with incredulity by the people and the press of Great Britain, has probably turned the current of diplomatic negotiations into a new channel. The British Foreign Office is in courtesy obliged to accord an investigation into circumstances narrated by the Russian admiral, re-emphasized as it is by the testimony of subordinate officers of the squadron and by the report of the Danish minister of marine, communicated to the Russian government, that vessels were known to have been chartered at Hull and in Sweden by the Japanese government for the purpose of attacking the Baltic squadron during its passage of the North Sea and English channel. There are on the one side stories of Russian ships firing upon vessels of several neutral nations, and on the other incidents tending to establish Admiral Rojestvensky's report that there were armed hostile vessels in the vicinity of at least the Hull fishing fleet. Rending developments in diplomatic exchanges, the British admiralty is showing the utmost activity in bringing facts with in the course of the Russian squadron.

London, By Cable.—One of the most complicated diplomatic situations in recent history, and one that is attended with the most dangerous possibilities for the peace of the whole of Europe exists, with no sign of immediate solution. The tension that arose when the dispute between Great Britain and Russia resolved itself into the simple question whether Russia would or would not guarantee and advance that some punishment should be administered to the offending officers of the Baltic squadron, has been modified by the introduction of an entirely new set of contentions contained in Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's report; yet even the most astute diplomats, who recognize a temporary improvement in conditions, are puzzled by the complications that so curiously cause it. However, there is at the moment a very strong conviction that a way out will be found other than in recourse to war.

The Foreign Office, apparently as puzzled as the onlookers, pursues the policy of silence, and the British press is almost totally uninformed. The voluminous exchange daily occurring between London and St. Petersburg continue the statement that no reply from Russia has been received, adding to the implication that Russia is intentionally ignoring the British representations. It is this misconception which is chiefly responsible for the stirring up of a popular agitation.

One Farmer Kills Another. Windsor, Ga., Special.—C. D. Burnett, a prominent farmer, shot and killed Young Daniel, also a farmer, Monday night. It seems that Burnett had sold a farm to Daniel. Before a settlement had been made and titles passed, a dispute arose that resulted in a quarrel, and the shooting occurred. Both men are about 60 years old.

Pier and Steamer Burn. New York, Special.—Fire which began shortly after midnight has destroyed the pier at the foot of Forty-second street, in Brooklyn, and the steamer City of Palermo, of the Prince Line, is burning, and it is believed cannot be saved. The pier, which is 700 feet long, is occupied by the Bush Terminal and Warehouse Company, and is stored with cotton and general merchandise. The fire is now threatening the adjoining piers. Five or six lighters, loaded with cotton, are ablaze. A policeman and a fireman are reported as missing. It is estimated that the loss will reach half a million dollars.

By Wire and Cable. A dispatch from a staff correspondent of The Sun in New York states that Republican confidence in the election of Mr. Roosevelt is based on the possession of an immense campaign fund provided by trusts.

De Lancy Nicoll declared he would open the books of the Democratic National Committee and give contributors' names; if Chairman Cortelyou would do the same.

Judge Parker will make speeches next week in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Secretary of War Taft made a campaign speech at Ithaca, N. Y. Governor Odell says he will take no cases of alleged fraudulent registration.

Senator N. B. Scott has gone to West Virginia to take charge of the Republican campaign.

The new underground railway in New York city will be opened with formal ceremonies at the city hall today.

The railroad companies began the presentation of their side of the case in the suit of William R. Hearst against the alleged coal combine.

NEWS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Paragraphs of Minor Importance Gathered From Many Sources.

Through the South.

Miss Mary Worth Bagley, of a noted North Carolina family, being penitently committed suicide in New York.

Mrs. James Longstreet, widow of the famous Confederate general, has been appointed postmaster at Gainesville, Ga.

Capt. R. M. Hitch, who was in charge of State troops at the time of the lynching of two negroes at Statesboro, S. C., was dismissed from the military service.

Washington Happenings.

The navy will have a wireless telegraph system in operation next week from the Nantuxet lightships.

Secretary of War Taft replied to Judge Parker on the Philippine question in a speech at Newark.

The State Department has sent notes to American diplomats abroad looking to a reconvening of The Hague conference.

Ex-Ambassador General Knox has issued a statement replying to the speeches of Judge Parker and ex-President Cleveland.

The Supervising Inspectors of the Steamboat Inspection Service are in session in Washington to suggest changes in inspection regulations.

In the North.

"Congregational Day" was celebrated at the St. Louis Fair.

The triennial general convention of the Episcopal Church closed in Boston.

Beginning October 31, Senator Fairbanks is scheduled to make 67 speeches in Indiana.

Mrs. Nellie Thompson, of Peoria, Ill., died after an encounter in a railway station with the son of John G. Higgins, whom she expected to meet.

Judge Alton B. Parker, addressing a New Jersey delegation at Esopus, N. Y., renewed his charges of Republican extravagance.

Ex-President Grover Cleveland made a vigorous speech in advocacy of Parker, Davis and Herrick at a great mass-meeting in Carnegie Hall, New York city.

The Harlan & Hollingsworth plant of the United States Shipbuilding Company was sold under a court decree at Wilmington, Del., and was bought by the reorganization committee.

Foreign Affairs.

Trafalgar Day was observed in Great Britain and her colonies.

The British mission in Tibet resumed its journey to the Chumbi valley.

The French Chamber of Deputies debated the rupture of relations with the Vatican, but did not reach a vote.

Great Britain refused to allow Germany to use Walvis Bay for landing troops to be used against the Hereros in southwest Africa.

The Russians unsuccessfully bombarded Shakhie station, Manchuria, but most of the armies of Kuropatkin and Oyama remained inactive.

The Atlantic Transport Line steamer Massachusetts was reported aground off the Bahamas Islands.

The officers and crew of the British steamer Kalvia, from New York, were rescued after great hardships at sea.

An aeronaut maneuvering in an airship high above the World's Fair caused excitement.

Czar Nicholas sent a telegram to King Edward expressing his regret for the North sea blunder and practically offering reparation.

General Kuropatkin was appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian land forces in Manchuria.

The trial of four French colonels on charges growing out of the Dreyfus case began in Paris.

Miscellaneous Matters.

Hon. W. J. Bryan is quoted as saying his Indiana tour has given him confidence in a Democratic victory in that State.

At Denver W. Bourke Cockran denounced the present tariff as a system of robbery.

Senator Fairbanks continued his stump tour into Michigan.

The United States Steel Corporation's quarterly report showed a large falling off in net earnings.

Five men "beating a ride" on a wabash freight train were killed in Illinois.

Cornelius Van Cott, postmaster of New York city, died suddenly.

THE TRIAL OF M'CUE

Progress of Peculiar Case in Virginia Criminology

TWO WITNESSES GO ON THE STAND

A Lynchburg Attorney Retained in Place of the Counsel Who Was Taken Ill—Prisoner Bursts Into Tears When His Brother, Dr. Frank McCue, Narrates the Finding of the Body—Dr. C. S. Venable Describes the Wounds of McCue and the Deceased—Gunshot Wound in Mrs. McCue's Breast Powder-Marked.

Charlottesville, Va., Special.—The McCue trial, which opened regularly on Monday, has made satisfactory progress. Tuesday and Wednesday were occupied in hearing testimony.

Charles Skinner, the negro who testified that he heard the crying of a woman, and then a shot coming from the McCue house, recounted his testimony at the request of jurors. In answer to a question, he said he heard the "coarse" crying, like that of a man, a little after the shot was fired, and before he heard a man running down the street.

W. J. Walker testified that he and his wife entered their home, next door to the McCue residence, about 20 minutes to 9, on the night of September 4, and were in the front of their house some little time before.

He said they heard no crying and no alarm until they were informed of the shooting by a passer-by.

Virginia Bragg, a telephone operator, testified that on the night of September 4, the defendant "rang in," and his first remark was "give me some one." Then he asked for the residence of Mrs. T. J. Williams. Miss Bragg said she informed Mr. McCue that the line was busy, whereupon he said not to tell him the "phone was busy, as some one was in the house and had shot and probably killed his wife. Witness then gave the Williams residence, when he repeated that some one was in the house and probably "had killed Fannie." At the instance of Mrs. Williams, witness phoned to the police station to send some one to Mr. McCue's residence at once.

The witness had no recollection that Mr. McCue had called up Dr. McCue, the police station or any one else, and had not seen him since.

Lillie Busie, who operated the telephone switchboard upon which was Mr. McCue's number, said she did not recall a call for Dr. McCue for the accused.

Mr. Conway, business manager of The Daily Progress, testified to a reward of \$1,000 offered by the accused. J. S. White, an attorney, said that in the course of a conversation with the accused at the jail, the latter said to him that for the last four or five years his life had been "a perfect hell," and that "that woman" was the most jealous he ever knew, and that he had worked hard to build a happy home. While he could not say that the accused spoke of his wife in an affectionate way, the witness said he spoke of her in a respectful manner.

William Hurley, a negro who had worked for Mr. McCue, said that some three or four years ago he heard Mr. McCue say something about his wife being jealous and something about his effect on his life or his pleasure, which could not remember definitely what the language was. This witness said Mr. McCue told him that he saw the man who came in the house in the mirror as the latter passed his door. On entering the house, he was in the bath room; and the witness told him at the jail that he thought too much of his wife and family to do what he was accused of doing. The shot gun in evidence, he said, was found in the bath room, the latter bearing the cartridges in the wardrobe.

R. T. W. Duke, formerly judge of the court in which the McCue trial is now being conducted, said the accused told him that he heard a noise when he got home from church the night of the tragedy, and that he grappled with a man in the passage, broke away from him, but was knocked down and his gun taken away from him.

Charlottesville, Va., Special.—The attorneys for ex-Mayor McCue, charged with the murder of his wife, who announced late Tuesday that because of the illness of Mr. McCue, they had decided to proceed further, stated that they could not proceed further, stated at the opening of the court that they had decided to go on.

Dr. Frank McCue, a brother of the defendant, was the first witness. He was called to the home of the accused about 9:15 on the night of the tragedy. He said when he got inside the house he met the brother now on trial at the staircase, who said to him that there was someone in the house who had attacked him and "probably had shot Fannie," his wife. He detailed the finding of the dead body of Mrs. McCue, which lay in a high chair on the second floor, and described the wounds, there being one on the right ear, another on the left side of the breast. The water was running in the tub at the time. On coming out of the bath-room, witness told his brother the finding of the body when the latter exclaimed: "Oh, my darling wife!" As the witness repeated this, the accused buried his face in a handkerchief and burst into tears. The witness also told of the finding of a gun and a baseball bat in the bath-room, the latter bearing a red stain near the end. The exhibits were identified by witnesses. The gun was a repeating shotgun. Witness believed his brother came into the doorway of the bath-room and saw the dead body. On entering the bath-room, he saw a burst of gunpowder was present.

On meeting his brother he was in the house he asked where his wife was, when the accused, he said told him to "go look for Fannie." He said he could get no replies to his question from his brother; that he seemed dazed and that when he went to attend his brother later he offered him a stimulant, which was declined. The witness said he observed a wound on his brother's cheek, from which blood was dripping on his shirt.

PORT ARTHUR LULL ENDS

Third General Attack Reported to Have Begun Last Monday and Even Still in Progress at Last Accounts

Wednesday—Russians' Only Smokeless Magazine Exploded, Causing a Fire Which Spread Into the Town—Japanese Gain Rihlung Mountain. A third general attack on Port Arthur is reported to have begun on October 24th, and to have been still in progress on the 26th. On the latter day the Russians' only smokeless powder magazine was exploded, causing a fire spreading to the town and raging all through the day, Russian trenches on the slope of Rihlung Mountain were taken by the Japanese. In the vicinity of the Shikie river there have been no developments of moment.

Armed in Close Touch. Mukden, By Cable.—The attack by the Japanese on the Buddhist temple hill on October 27th, led to a sharp fighting. The Japanese artillery played on the position from early in the morning, rendering the trenches untenable, shells and shrapnel sweeping everything and demolishing all the shelters. Two machine guns with the latest model order. There was desperate hand to hand fighting in the trenches, followed by a counter-attack with the bayonet. The Japanese finally gained the hill, but were unable to hold it in the face of the deadly Russian artillery fire.

Several positions have already changed hands many times. It is related that in one village, which had been taken and retaken by the same hand on both sides, Captain Polkanoff, who had driven out the day, left a note in the but where he had passed the night, saying he would like to know the name of the Japanese officer who was in the habit of occupying the but in his absence. A little later Captain Polkanoff returned, and he was going through his old quarters, found the following note in perfect Russian:

"I am Captain Yamata. I would be greatly pleased to make Captain Polkanoff's acquaintance. There is a quiet life along the whole front. The Russians are in the habit of harassing the Japanese at night. A quiet night. Russian scouts are in the trenches near Sinchupin, causing great confusion. The Russian scouts also discovered that the Japanese are moving many batteries to the front, though as yet all have been carefully masked."

Will Not Be Removed. Vigo, Spain, By Cable.—Inquiries here fail to obtain the slightest confirmation of the report published in the United States that Vice Admiral Rojestvensky had requested Emperor Nicholas to relieve him of his command. The Russian press general here said to the Associated Press that he was not aware that there any question of replacing the admiral and that he did not believe such a proposition had ever been raised.

It is believed the international investigation here of the North Sea incident has begun. The British cruiser Lancaster, which was here for some time yesterday, and departed in the evening after her commander had conferred with Vice Admiral Rojestvensky on board the Russian flagship Knaiz Souvaroff, returned today, and there was another conference between British and Russian naval commanders on board the flagship of the latter. Subsequently, the Lancaster sailed for Villagarcia, where it is supposed the British channel fleet has assembled.

There are five British warships cruising off Vigo, evidently watching the Russian vessels here.

The Spanish Foreign office has given out a statement to the effect that Russia has asked Spain's permission for the ships of Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron to remain in Vigo until the investigation of the North Sea affair shall have been concluded. Spain, according to the official statement, consulted with the representatives of the several powers, who gave their approval. The authorization, however, applies only to Russian vessels now at Vigo.

Antemallan Ant No Failure. Houston, Texas, Special.—Dr. B. T. Galloway has received a telegram from the Agricultural Department at Washington asking if it were true that he had given out an interview stating that the Gatemanian ants were a failure as loil keevil enemies. Dr. Galloway promptly answered that the interview was not true; that Collins and Goll went to Guatemala as originally intended, and further study the ants in the native habitat. Dr. Galloway has returned from Victoria, where he looked after the ants, and expressed himself as satisfied with the work now being done with them by Dr. Webber and Dr. Hunter.

Japs Capture Guns. Tokio, By Cable.—A telegram received from Manchurian headquarters says:

"On October 21 there was no change reported in the front of all our armies." "Further investigation shows the number of guns captured by our left wing to have been 43, the left column king 27 and the right column 16. The guns, munitions, etc., which have been captured have not yet been counted."

Shooting Affair at Danville. Danville, Va., Special.—S. H. Buchanan, a banker of Jonesboro, Ga., was shot in this city and is in a critical condition. He was in the room of Mrs. W. T. White, at the latter's home, at the time, and she has been arrested, charged with the crime. She declares, however, that it was a case of attempted suicide. Buchanan is said to have a wife living in Georgia. Mrs. White says she knew Buchanan in Georgia before coming to Virginia.

THE HAGUE COURT

Will Be Called Upon to Settle Some Recent Complications

MR. HAY ISSUES A CIRCULAR NOTE

President's Promise to the Peace Congress at St. Louis Redeemed Through the Secretary of State, Who Says That the International Conference of 1899 Left Various Matters For a Future Conference—Progress of the Russo-Japanese War No Obstacle, Inasmuch as the United States and Spain Had Not Concluded Peace on the Prior Occasion.

Washington, Special.—In a circular note, Secretary Hay has carried out the president's instructions relative to proposing a second Hague conference. The note not only contemplates the re-assembling of the Hague conference for the consideration of the questions specifically mentioned by the original conference, as demanding further attention, such as the rights and duties of neutrals, the inviolability of private property in naval warfare and the bombardment of ports by naval forces, but goes on further by practically endorsing the project of a general system of arbitration treaties.

The issue of the call while the present war is in progress is justified by the fact that the first Hague conference was called before our treaty of peace with Spain was concluded.

Mr. Hay's letter says that the Hague conference of 1899 marked an epoch in the history of nations and that a great work was accomplished, although certain phrases of the general subject were left for a future conference. The letter ascribes to the Inter-Parliamentary Union considerable credit for preparing the nations for the conference, and says that this union at St. Louis recently requested the president to call a second conference of the Hague. It adds:

"In accepting this trust, the president was not unmindful of the fact, so vividly brought home to all the world, that a great war is now in progress. He recalled the circumstances of the time when, on August 24, 1898, his majesty, the Emperor of Russia, sent forth his invitation to the nations to meet in the interests of peace, the United States and Spain had merely halted in their struggle to devise means of peace."

"While at the present moment attending to the duties of his office, the president was not unmindful of the fact, so vividly brought home to all the world, that a great war is now in progress. He recalled the circumstances of the time when, on August 24, 1898, his majesty, the Emperor of Russia, sent forth his invitation to the nations to meet in the interests of peace, the United States and Spain had merely halted in their struggle to devise means of peace."

"The president directs that you will bring the foregoing considerations to the attention of the minister of foreign affairs of the government to which you are accredited and, in so doing, you may say to him that, at this time it would seem premature to compile the tentative invitation thus extended with a categorical programme of subjects of discussion. It is only by comparison of views that the matters to be considered by the new conference. It is desired that in the formulation of a programme the distinction should be kept clear between the matters which belong to the province of international law, and those which are incalculable as between individual governments. Among the broader general questions affecting the right and justice of the relation of sovereign states, which were then relegated to a future conference were:

"The rights and duties of neutrals; the inviolability of private property in naval warfare; and the bombardment of ports, towns and villages by a naval force. The other matters mentioned in the final act take the form of suggestions for consideration by interested governments."

"The three points mentioned cover a large field. The first, especially touching the rights and duties of neutrals, is of universal importance. Its right, full disposition affects the interests and well-being of all the world. The neutral is something more than an onlooker. His act of omission or commission may have an influence—direct, but tangible—on a war actually in progress; whilst, on the other hand, he may suffer from the exigencies of the belligerents. It is this phase of warfare which deeply concerns the world at large."

"Other matters closely affecting the rights of neutrals are the distinction to make between absolute and conditional contraband of war, and the inviolability of the official and private correspondence of neutrals."

"As for the duties of neutrals toward the belligerent, the field is scarcely less broad. One aspect deserves mention, from the prominence it has acquired during recent times; namely, the treatment due to refugee belligerent ships in neutral ports."

Maneuvers Close. Gibraltar, By Cable.—Four Russian torpedo boat destroyers passed through the Straits, eastward-bound, this forenoon, shadowed by a British torpedo boat. The British Mediterranean squadron has been signaled twenty miles distant. The British mobilization maneuvers at Gibraltar were brought to a close Sunday. This is regarded as indicating that no apprehension is entertained of further complications with Russia.

A Mild Question That Soothed.

In one of the parlor cars of a train ending its way to this city a man who looked the typical "sport" was making himself obnoxious, and all the other passengers uncomfortable by the continually and senseless of his "kicks." He had the porter in every few minutes to complain about something. That was bad enough, but at length he grew profane. It seemed as if any attempt to check the flow of his evil language would lead to a fight. A benevolent-looking old man who sat next to him proved, however, that a mild question as well as a mild answer will turn away wrath. Just after the "sport" had indulged himself in another violent outburst of profanity the old man bestowed upon him a gentle glance through his gold-rimmed spectacles, and with the utmost gravity drew out the innocent query:

"Say, my brother, where do you preach tomorrow?" A roar of laughter went up from the car, the "sport" himself had to grin, and the rest of the journey to the city was made in peace and quiet.—New York Press.

The cost of the pension roll is \$1.75 a year for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Alive and Dead Passengers.

Carter Harrison, mayor of Chicago, while on his way west chanced to meet an acquaintance, and together they traveled, chatting about boyhood days. The conductor came along, took up the ticket of the acquaintance, placed a tag on his hat, nodded pleasantly to the mayor and, without examining the latter's pass, went on. "Thank you," said the acquaintance to the conductor. "What did you say that for?" asked the mayor. "Why, for the manner in which he distinguished between us and for indicating that I am still classed among the living."

"I fail to understand," declared the mayor. "It appears to me as very evident," observed the mayor's companion cautiously, "that the conductor does not consider it necessary to label a dead head."

Prolific Old Apple Tree. Close to the shore of Eastern river in West Dresden, Me., there is an apple tree which has few equals. It stands thirty feet high, measures ten feet and three inches around and spreads fifty feet. Its owner, Mr. Ham, has gathered in some years thirty bushels of apples from this tree, which is said to be more than 100 years old.

One Carload Received,

and more coming in, which includes the following HOLIDAY GOODS. Boys wagons, Goat carts, Hobby Horses, Sho-Flys Velocipedes and Tricycle. A large and fine assortment worth selling. Seven cases of Chase's fine plush and beaver robes from \$1.25 to \$25.00. Remember the Babcock vehicles.

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